SENATE
COMMITTEES DIRECTORATE



SÉNAT
DIRECTION DES COMITÉS

CANADA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OTTAWA, Thursday, October 8, 2026
(43)

[*English*]

The Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry met this day at 8:03 a.m., in room B45, Senate of Canada Building, the chair, the Honourable Mary Robinson, presiding.

Members of the committee present: The Honourable Senators Black, Burey, Martin, McBean, McNair, Muggli, Robinson and Sorensen (8).

Participating in the meeting: Joanne Markle LaMontagne and Martin McCallum, Analysts, Library of Parliament.

Pursuant to the order of reference adopted by the Senate on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, the committee continued its study on the role of the agriculture and agri-food sector with regard to food security in Canada.

WITNESSES:

Canadian Pork Council:

René Roy, Chair;

Claire Citeau, Vice-President of Trade Advocacy and Public Affairs.

Chicken Farmers of Canada:

Luce Bélanger, Vice-Chair (*by videoconference*);

Lauren Kennedy, Director of Public Affairs and Communications.

Ottawa Food Bank:

Natalie Spooner, Chief Executive Officer.

René Roy, Luce Bélanger and Natalie Spooner each made a statement and, together with Claire Citeau and Lauren Kennedy, answered questions.

At 9:01 a.m., the committee suspended.

At 9:08 a.m., pursuant to rule 12-16(1)(d), the committee resumed in camera to discuss a draft report.

Pursuant to the order of reference adopted by the Senate on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, the committee continued its consideration of the subject matter of those elements contained in Division 13 of Part 4 of Bill C-31, A second Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on November 4, 2025.

It was agreed that the committee allow the audio recording and/or transcription of the in camera portion of today's meeting, that one copy be kept with the clerk of the committee for consultation by committee members and/or staff, and that the audio recording and/or transcript be destroyed by the clerk of the committee when authorized to do so by the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure, but no later than at the end of this parliamentary session.

It was agreed that the draft report, as amended, be adopted in both official languages, and that the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure be empowered to approve the final version of the report, taking into consideration this meeting's discussions, and with any necessary editorial, grammatical and translation changes required.

It was agreed that the chair be authorized to table the report in the Senate, or deposit with the Clerk of the Senate, in both official languages, at the earliest opportunity.

At 9:38 a.m., pursuant to rule 12-16(1)(d), the committee discussed in camera a draft agenda (future business).

It was agreed that, notwithstanding the order of the Senate adopted on October 22, 2025, the date for the final report of the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry in relation to its study on food security in Canada be extended from December 31, 2026, to June 30, 2027.

It was agreed that the chair request that the Parliamentary Budget Officer provide a cost estimate regarding the price of fertilizer in relation to the study on the role of the agriculture and agri-food sector with regard to food security in Canada.

At 9:56 a.m., the committee adjourned to the call of the chair.

ATTEST:

Katy Quinn

Clerk of the Committee